

Statement By The Chairman

With regard to the distribution of costs arising under the Treaty on Open Skies the Open Skies Consultative Commission, in fulfillment of its obligation pursuant to Annex L, Section I, paragraph 9, has elaborated the provisions set forth in Decision No. 1 to the Treaty on Open Skies, which the States Parties have endorsed today.

With reference to Section V, paragraph 10 of this decision, it has not been possible, however, to reach agreement on the distribution of costs related to fees for navigational aids and for air traffic control services, airport landing and take-off, ground handling, parking and security for observation, transport and transit flights.

On the basis of the extensive discussion which has taken place on this issue a significant majority of States Parties has agreed that the above-mentioned fees should not be charged to the Observing Party. They consider this to be a fair and reasonable as well as technically simple approach which by facilitating the implementation of the Treaty by all States Parties would thus enhance transparency, confidence- and security-building. Some States Parties, however, could not agree to this principle.

Some States Parties reserved their positions with regard to the provisions of Section V, paragraph 5, pending a satisfactory solution of the problem of the above-mentioned fees.

Taking careful note of the views which have been expressed on this issue, it is apparent to me as Chairman that the question will require further analysis and discussion. It is my hope that Parties will achieve a mutually agreeable and equitable solution before the end of the autumn session.

It is understood by all States Parties that the need to reconsider this issue does not constitute a hindrance to those States Parties who wish to proceed to ratification of the Treaty on Open Skies.